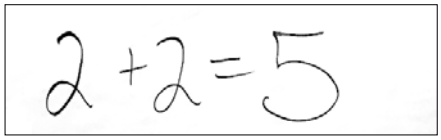
MONTEREY NEWS

January 2017

Est. 1970 Vol. XLVII · Number 1

Monterey celebrated its Sesquicentennial in 1997. A summary of events was launched with the Memorial Day parade, which included Chief Konkapot (David McAllester) and General Knox (Del Rogers). Looking Back Twenty Years *begins on page 13. Photos by Maggie Leonard.*

We used to have one of the lowest tax rates in the state. Wait—we still do.
Our Tax Bills Page 4



Our new financial team adds up. Page 7

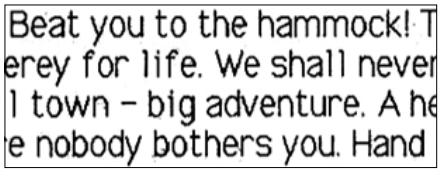
The parade was concluded with the "biggest weiner roast in Monterey history—about 2000—which kicked off the Sesquicentennial Summer Celebration."
Memorial Day 1997 Page 16

Peter Murkett remembers building a box, but when asked if he remembered any details about it, he replied, "Umm, it has six sides."
Lost in Time Page 15

"Rain, hail, thunder, and lightning around 5 p.m," with wind speeds of "only" 113 to 157 mph.
Tornado Redux Page 19

Hockey Rink Schedule

The young, adult, and team skaters are hoping for a colder winter. Page 9



Monterey Slogans Page 17

Eleanor Bousnous watercolors Page 6

Weevils in the weeds? Pages 10-11, 18

January is one of those times. Living well is the best revenge. Actually, pulling the covers up over my head might be a good start.
In My View Page 2

Navigating toward balance, and the best of both, sounds to me like good ways to move through the year.
Cat Tales Page 8

Turn away from the din
Smile for no reason
Step into the sun
Pause Page 13

In My View
Forget Resolutions

Since mid-November, I have found it increasingly tempting to pull the covers over my head and stay in bed. Bleak, in so many ways. Dark and cold. As we enter the New Year, I am struggling mightily to get back to my usual optimistic self. Town business goes on, and I am temporarily buoyed to think of the extraordinary efforts of our highway crew, office staff, fire company, community volunteers, and official committees working on the seemingly endless array of challenges facing Monterey. I've been attending numerous Massachusetts municipal and legislative conferences, learning to further the interests of small towns like ours, while surrounded by intelligent, hard-working, well-intentioned people also trying to do right by neighbors and fellow citizens. But in my darker moments, all this good work feels futile. What's a Pollyanna to do?

Forget resolutions. We are told they rarely work anyway. So, in no particular order, here's what I plan to—no, will—do to get out of this funk: Read escapist novels, no redeeming social value required. Smile and chat with friendly neighbors en route to the library, post office, transfer station, and Gould Farm's Harvest Barn. Cook and bake delicious food to share with loved ones. Cut way down on watching, listening to, and reading national news, for obvious reasons. Look forward to the January thaw. Light a candle. Enjoy those heated seats, a.k.a bun warmers, in the car. Get back in touch with far-flung family members to revive a potential reunion—why wait for a bar mitzvah, wedding, or funeral to get together? Keep visiting the nursing home now that the buzz of holiday visitors has gone by. Hug more. Think local, attend and support community events, art shows, school concerts and plays, museums, and farmers' markets. Try new (to me) coffee shops and cafes. Feed the myriad assortment of glamorous, hungry birds who animate our yard. Daydream over the colorful seed catalogs stuffed into our mailbox. Remember to count my blessings. A safe, warm home, surrounded by family and friends, insulated for the most part from the terrors and hardships others face on a daily basis. I will not forget or ignore the injustice, uncertainty or danger in the world outside my door. But sometimes I've just got to put it on hold, and January is one of those times. Living well is the best revenge.

Actually, pulling the covers up over my head might be a good start.

Looking forward,

—Carol Edelman
Monterey Select Board

Editor's Note: In My View *is a monthly feature for this paper. It provides the individual select board members an opportunity, on a rotating basis, to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

Community Potluck Jan. 18
The Monterey History Project

At the December potluck, Nanette Hucknall led us in a few fascinating and heartfelt exercises from her newest book, *How to Live from Your Heart*. There were more than a few people who received answers to questions they posed. Thanks to Nanette for a lovely evening.

On January 18, Wendy Germain will talk about the Monterey History Project and show some clips from interviews done over the past year. Inspired by the book *Monterey: A Local History 1847–1997*, the Monterey History Project was launched last year. The book, edited by Peter Murkett, is filled with townspeople weaving together stories that gave us glimpses into Monterey's vibrant past.

The project began with Mark Makuc inviting people to a monthly gathering at the library to tell stories about Monterey, with Wendy Germain videotaping. There are now two dozen videos. They include talking about topics like the gravity races or the Woodburn farm boys. The goal is to archive them on DVDs at the Monterey Library.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be on Wednesday, January 18, at 6 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

The Monterey History Project will also meet on February 4, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the library. We'll have a sit-around-the-table event talking about the history of the Monterey Church.

—Kyle Pierce

PRECISION AUTOCRAFT INC

- AAA Approved Collision Repair
- PPG Paint Guarantee
- BBB Accredited Business
- Eco-Friendly Waterborne Paint
- Laser Frame Measuring
- Plastic Welding
- We Can Arrange for Rental Cars
- Open Mon-Fri 8:00-5:00

PERFECTING THE ART OF COLLISION REPAIR SINCE 1979
1939 N Main St (Rt 7) Sheffield MA 01257 - (413) 528-1457
www.precision-auto.com email: precision.auto@roadrunner.com

Transfer Station News

Now that we have finished 2016 and begun a new year, Beth, Ben, and I thank everyone for the wonderful cards and gifts we received. Thank you all for the breads, cookies, homemade candies, and the wonderful and thoughtful cards. In turn, we hope everyone had a safe and happy new year.

I know that it must not seem like it, but work is still going on at our new transfer station, and soon we will be in our new home. We will post the opening date as soon as the new compacting equipment is installed and has passed state inspection.

We have had a cold and snowy start to the winter so far, and though we and the highway department do our very best to keep the road and the area around the compactors clear of snow and ice, we please ask you to be extra careful. The last thing we would want is any of our "customers" hurt. So drive in slowly and beware of where you're walking.

Happy New Year from your friends at the transfer station.

—Dave Gilmore

Monterey Community Center News

The short list of things still to be done to obtain our Certificate of Occupancy is growing shorter by the day. After a hiatus for administrative reasons, we are once again finishing up bits and pieces of the interior. The oak flooring will go down soon, and then the finish line will be in sight. Let's see, for the curtains in the bathroom, should we use the dark blue, or the maroon? You can be sure that when we actually are able to open for public use, you will hear about it!

Thank you for your support! We are grateful for the year-end donations that we received in December and always welcome additional gifts.

—Friends of Wilson-McLaughlin House
ccmonterey.org
PO Box 302, Monterey, MA 01245

Harvest Barn Bakery
at **Gould Farm**

Sat & Sun 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
(Self-Serve Wed - Fri 9:00 - 3:00)

Gould Road in Monterey
413.644.9718

GOULD FARM
Harvesting Hope • Promoting Recovery

Fully Insured
Licensed

Dan Lewis
CARPENTER
Repairs - Remodeling - Restorations
since 1987
233 Main Rd
Monterey, MA
413-528-2525

Barnbrook
www.BarnbrookRealty.com

Dagmar Kubes
Broker Associate, ABR
★
Superior Real-Estate Service tailored to your needs.
★
413 528-6485
E-mail: dagmarrealty@verizon.net

SELL * BUY * RENT

WE GROW THE FUTURE
WEBSTER
design landscape horticulture
1719 North Main Street Sheffield, MA 01257
413-229-8124 **websterlandscapes.com**

Our Tax Bills
What's going on?

From 2006 to 2015 the increase in the tax rate was less than $1.00. Then in 2016 it jumped by $0.25 and then for this year it skyrocketed up by $1.05. *Yikes!* What's going on? We used to have one of the lowest tax rates in the state. Wait—we still do.

Even with the large increase for 2017, we are still in the lowest group statewide and among the lowest in Berkshire County. How can this be?

When I was elected to the select board in 2014 and began meeting with the various boards that do the hard work in Monterey, the finance committee proved to be the most vexing. Why are there so many items in our ten-year fiscal plan that keep being pushed off from year-to-year with no resolution? Why are we carrying bills from eight years ago that are not being dealt with? The answer to these and many more questions were often answered with, "the accountant/treasurer are doing the best they can," or "the select board needs to keep the tax rate low." My question was, "At what cost to the town and, ultimately, the taxpayer?"

Infrastructure Improvement Costs

One of the first things we did when we hired our new highway superintendent was to go over the prior superintendent's list of projects that never got funded. The list was long and went from simple culvert replacements to adding more gravel to our gravel roads to building a new transfer station. The select board, with finance committee support, decided to take a more active approach to Monterey's infrastructure. Over the past three years we have replaced over twenty culverts that were failing, including the major one on Route 23, which required closing that road for eight days. We've re-paved one-third of our roads, upgraded many of our gravel roads, and replaced two bridges.

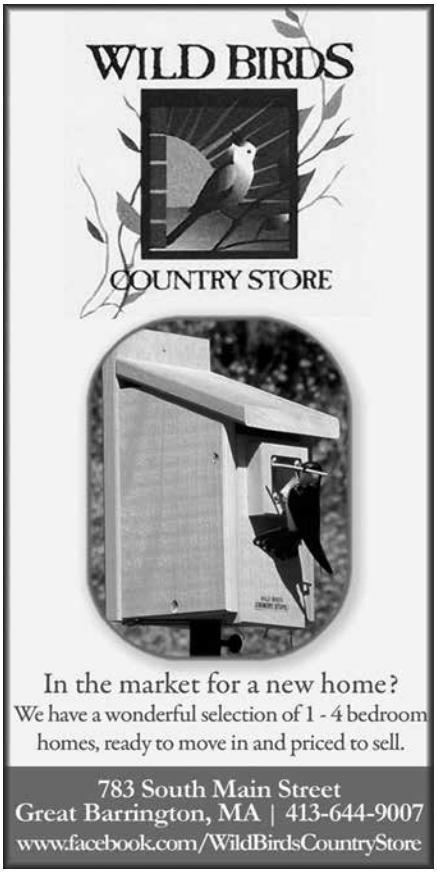
The most telling project was the transfer station, as it shows what happens when you "kick the can down the road." Ten years ago it was determined that the transfer station was inadequate to the needs of Monterey and that parts of the physical plant were failing. Plans were drawn up, land identified, and estimates reviewed. Each year the select board would consider the project and then, feeling the need to keep the tax rate down, would put it off until the next year. This happened eight times and we all benefitted from a lower tax rate, but at what cost? When the department of environmental protection finally raised concerns about serious safety issues, noting that the upper level of the transfer station was structurally failing, the town could wait no longer. Out came the old plans, minor upgrades were designed, and then we found the cost had almost doubled. If we had built the project when first proposed, the cost would have added $0.05 to our tax rate at a time when there were no other increases. Today it is going to add $0 .12.

School Costs

One area we have no control over, "the elephant in the room," is the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. The SBRSD's assessment of Monterey represents over 40% of the total town budget. We all want quality education for our children, and Monterey has always been in the lead when the district needed help, but the district has put undo fiscal pressure on the town in the last two years. The state department of education requires the towns in a regional school district to adhere to a complicated formula that is supposed to put all towns on equal footing. When our assessment went up by 9% last year and other towns stayed flat, or even went down, it was explained that this was a continued readjustment to the fiscal mistakes the district had made the prior year when they used the wrong formula to assess the towns. Last year's dramatic increase caused the select board to question the validity of the state formula.

One of the core principals of the formula was the assumption that each town in the district was following the state guidelines to assess properties at 100% of market value. This created the so-called "level

ABC
Allentuck Building Company
Licensed & Insured Carpentry Services
in Southern Berkshire County
Home Repair Made as Simple as ABC
Josh Allentuck:
413-329-6260
Prioritize your home repair needs...
Just say HELP!


WILD BIRDS
COUNTRY STORE
In the market for a new home?
We have a wonderful selection of 1 - 4 bedroom homes, ready to move in and priced to sell.
783 South Main Street
Great Barrington, MA | 413-644-9007
www.facebook.com/WildBirdsCountryStore

playing field" needed to provide fairness across the system. We asked our assessor to get the assessment percentage used for each of the other four towns and surprise, surprise, Monterey is the only town in the district following the state guidelines. New Marlborough is at 90% of market value, and Sheffield, Egremont, and Alford are also below 100%. This means that our share is disproportionately higher while the other towns's shares are lower. This is coupled with the fact that almost one-half of Monterey's school aged population attends in other districts, are home schooled, or attend private school. There are many questions that need to be answered. All this affects the budget and the tax rate.

Tax Exempt or Tax Abated Lands

Monterey is also hit hard by lands owned by tax exempt organizations or having special tax status. 65% of the land area in Monterey is either not taxable or taxed at less than 75% of value. This represents a total of 11,567 acres. (See note below.) Thus, the entire tax burden of the town is carried by the 35% of Monterey's real estate not participating in land conservation easements or outright tax exemptions.

What does this all mean?

I would argue that we have reached a tax rate that provides a foundation for the town going forward. If we had taken on those projects that needed to be accomplished when first proposed, there would have been a gradual increase over the last ten years that would have gotten us to this level but without the big single-year jump we now face. This new tax rate allows the town to provide the services needed to meet the challenges presented. There is no other town in the Berkshires that has a better highway department, fire department, transfer station (soon), building department, town hall, parks commission. The list goes on and on, and let's not forget all the boards (conservation commission, planning board, broadband committee, Lake Garfield Working Group, etc.) where residents volunteer many hours to keep the town moving forward. All the above need our support.

Also, we have finally put together the administrative team coupled with a financial team that will lead to a tightening of policies and procedures. This will allow better financial management and the ability to predict upcoming needs.

Finally, when you are asking yourself why the jump in taxes, keep in mind the tax rates in the following towns: Otis—$8.08, Sandisfield—$13.29, New Marlborough—$9.80, Great Barrington—$14.60, Tyringham—$7.00.

Even with the increase to $7.30, we are fifth from the bottom in Berkshire county tax rates. Not bad when you start adding up the amenities and services available to Monterey residents.

When I started this article, I wanted to give an overview of why our tax rate is going up. I realized as I worked on it that there is no easy way to explain this. Over the next few months I will work with the finance committee and our town administrator to break down the key areas and explain in greater detail and depth.

Our current select board takes these fiscal challenges seriously. It has not been easy, but we have worked hard to position the town to be able to take on the future. We welcome your input.

—Kenn Basler
Chair, Monterey Select Board

Note: Of the 11,567 acres:

- *Tax exempt lands comprise 7,159, or 62%.*
- *Chapter 61, 61-A, and 61-B lands comprise 2,743 acres, or 24%.*
- *Conservation easement lands comprise 1,665 acres, or 14%.*
- *The total 11,567 acres represents over $500 million in value.*
- *The total in Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program payments is under $250,000.*

Christopher J. Tryon
& Associates
DBA:
Berkshire Geo-Technologies
CIVIL ENGINEERING

Perc Testing
Septic Design
Sewer & Water System Design
Residential & Commercial Site Design
Drainage Design
Structural Evaluation & Design
Retaining Wall Design
Foundation Design
Construction Layout
Driveway Design & Permitting
Scenic Mountain Act Permitting
Wetland Permitting
Field & Laboratory Testing of Construction Materials (Concrete & Soils)

441 Main Road
P.O. Box 61
Monterey, MA 01245
413-429-4888
berkshiregeotech@gmail.com

HTR
Hill Town Recycling
413.854.8866

Residential Recycling & Waste Removal at Your Curb or Doorstep

P.O. BOX 46 • SANDISFIELD, MA 01255 • HILLTOWNRECYCLING@GMAIL.COM

Knox Gallery in January

An enthusiastic crowd filled the Knox Gallery to capacity on the evening of December 3 to celebrate the opening of the winter community exhibit *between the lines*. Everyone enjoyed lively conversation and close viewing of the diverse and varied art seemed to be enjoyed by all. The smorgasbord included nibbles catered by Kenn Basler (underwritten by the Friends of the Library) and delicious sweets and treats contributed by many of the contributing artists.

The forty talented and inspired local friends and artists who found the theme of *between the lines* to be impetus for exciting work include many first-time Knox Gallery exhibitors. In addition to the numerous Monterey artists who submitted work, contributors from nearby New York state and several neighboring Berkshire County towns are represented.

Participants in *between the lines* are Patricia Andrus, Michelle Arnot, Joe Baker, Maureen Banner, Michael Banner, Wendy Benjamin, Murray Bodin, Christine Christinat, John Clarke, Essy Shapiro Dean, Sally Eagle, Annabel Edelman, Carol L. Edelman, Josephine Freedman, Patricia Frik, Robin Goldberg, Peter Goldberg, Nancy T. Johnson, Pamela Johnson, Philip Knoll, Natalie Manzino, Dan Mead, Ellen Murtagh, Pauline Nault, Mark Olshansky, Marilyn Orner, Kit Patten, Marcia Powdermaker, Philip Pryjma, Ellyne Raeuber, Peggy Reeves, Alan Roland, Myrna Rosen, Arrie Setiawati, Gerry Shapiro, Julie Shapiro, Marc Simmons, Linda Stillman, Susan Terni Taff, and Katherine Ryan Waveris.

Candice Meshil

Watercolor farm scene by Eleanor Bounous, at the Knox Gallery.

Our sincere thanks go out to all the volunteers who helped launch this exhibit, and to those who purchased artwork during 2016. Please keep in mind that these purchases are, in fact, a threefold benefit—not only are you treating yourself or someone special to a unique gift—you are also promoting local art and artists. And, of course, 25% of the proceeds from all sales benefit your library, and keep the gallery going!

between the lines will remain on view through January 14. (Note to exhibiting artists: please remember to pick up your work on the evening of January 14 or the morning of January 17.)

Eleanor Bounous, Watercolorist

A memorial exhibit for Eleanor Bounous will open on Friday, January 20. Please join us the following evening, Saturday, January 21, for a reception from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Bounous, a longtime Monterey weekender and fulltime resident from 2002 until her death in late 2015, began sketching and painting in childhood. She pursued formal training and studied under many artists in tandem with raising a busy family.

Landscapes and studies of delicate flowers were her favorite subject matter. Bounous' daughter, Eleanor Rochman, offers that "Monterey's serene and secluded nature reflected my mother's own personality and approach to her life and her work." Her paintings have been exhibited in the Berkshires, New York, and Connecticut, and have been cited for many awards. The artist said of her own work, "The motivation for my painting is something very much internal. I am driven by the totally relaxing sensation of watercolor on paper. Stretching the medium to see what else the watercolors can do for me is an exhilarating challenge."

The Knox Gallery and the Monterey Library thank the Bounous family for championing this exhibit in memoriam, with its proceeds going to support the Monterey Library Building Fund. "It is a giving back to Monterey, a place that had brought Eleanor Bounous beauty, comfort ,and contentment, "her daughter states. Bousnous' husband, Gene, and one of their daughters, Eleanor Rochman, are Monterey residents.

All our exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, MontereyMassLibrary.org/knox-gallery/

452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery. @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

TRYON STONEWORKS
Native Fieldstone Walls | Landscape & Excavation Services

Enhance your landscape. Define your natural space.
Quality and experienced craftsmanship for 25 years

Professional stone & landscape design by Roger Tryon of Monterey, MA

413.528.4091 | berkshiremaple@verizon.net | tryonstoneworks.com

Burning Permits in Monterey

The Monterey Fire Department will again be using an online application for burning permits. Permits will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily, only when weather conditions allow for open burning. The DEP requires fires to be started after 10 a.m. and be extinguished by 4 p.m. for air quality purposes. Open burning season is from January 15 to May 1.

Go to bcburnpermits.com, read the regulations, and follow the section titled "How to obtain a permit." If you cannot obtain a permit online, you can call 413-445-4550 (Berkshire County Sheriff's office) between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., and follow the prompts. Make sure you print out your permit and keep it with you when burning.

- You may only burn brush—no leaves, grass, hay, stumps, building debris, or any other material.
- All open burning must be a minimum of seventy-five feet from a building or structure.
- Burning is allowed only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Any open fire must be attended at all times by the permit holder.
- No person shall set, maintain, or increase a fire in open air except by permit.
- You must be eighteen years or older to apply for a permit and tend the fire.
- You must have a means to extinguish an open fire completely at the end of the day or if requested by the fire department.
- The fire department can refuse or cancel a permit at any time.
- Open burning season is from January 15 to May 1.

Steven Weisz

Carol and Terry: the benefit of teamwork.

New Financial Team

Please welcome our new accountant, Carol Thomas-Davis. Carol will be in the office on Mondays from 1 to 4 p.m. and on Fridays, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Also, please welcome our new treasurer, Terry Spohnholz. Terry's office hours will be on Mondays from 1 to 4 p.m. and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Both Carol and Terry will officially begin on December 30.

Broadband Committee Update

The Monterey Broadband Committee is continuing to work towards a recommendation of a network provider to the select board. As stated in the December *Monterey News* update, there are multiple paths to achieve our goal. We're still working on all four of these paths:

- The original project to build and own a network;
- The state-developed Request for Proposal (RFP) that is due back from potential bidders by January 11;
- A multi-town services RFP to offer vendors a larger subscriber base, to be released on January 6; and,
- A Monterey-only RFP for broadband services, also to be released on January 6.

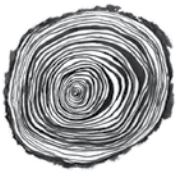
All of the RFPs referenced above are due to be returned by the potential bidders in January or early February. Our hope is that this will provide the town with a much clearer direction shortly thereafter. The broadband committee can be reached via email at broadband@montereyma.gov.

SUSAN M. SMITH
Attorney At Law

32 Corser Hill Road
Great Barrington,
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 229-7080
Facsimile: (413) 229-7085
Email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net

SKY VIEW FARM
micro-forestry & native lumber production



- cultivate your woods like a garden -
Sky View Farm specializes in harvesting and milling lumber from your own land for your own use.
MA licensed lumber producer
Will & Amelia Conklin | 413 229 2992
203 Galvin Farm Trail, Sheffield

Karen Shreefter Landscape Design
Working with clients to create captivating landscapes & gardens

413.528.1387
karen@kslandscapedesign.com
www.kslandscapedesign.com

From the Meetinghouse
Cat Tales and Compromise

Two Decembers ago, Tally and Sterling took up residence in our house. They aren't kittens anymore, but they still delight that we provide them with a toy-covered tall green thing at the end of the year.

This means our days of lavishly decorating a Christmas tree have faded into memory. Now we decorate the top half of the tree with favorite ornaments, strings of lights, and our angel tree-topper. The lower half makes do with just lights and cat paws. Happily, Tally has outgrown her 2015 tree-climbing proclivities. This year her favorite daytime nap spot is the tree skirt, carefully kneaded into a pile of fabric she deems comfortable for nestling under the tree's fragrant green.

Before they moved in with us, Sterling and Tally had been part-time Monterey residents who made the weekly commute with their people between here and Manhattan. Their humans soon began to realize how much happier the kittens were in Monterey. At about the same time, other issues made it possible that this couple wouldn't be able to keep the cats at all. That, they decided, wasn't an acceptable option.

They started asking around to see if anyone they knew would be willing to co-parent their pets. After a mutually rewarding interview, we agreed to a trial period and welcomed the kitties into our house.

The trial period lasted about three minutes before it became a permanent arrangement. Now Sterling and Tally spend weekdays on the west end of Monterey with us and weekends on the east side of Monterey with their other family.

How have they adjusted to this strange living arrangement? When the cat carriers appear from the basement in either house, Tally hops right in. Sterling uses the opportunity to see if anyone will leave a couple of snacks in his carrier. Everybody compromises: Snacks are given to both cats. Sterling settles in, mission accomplished. When they arrive at the new destination, no matter which home it is, they hop right out and settle in without missing a beat.

Introducing Sterling (front) and Tally. Sterling's a champion cat-napper who's also elegant, curious, and shy. Tally's, a petite dynamo eager to explore anything that shines, moves, makes nose, or, best of all, does all three at the same time. Though she seems to nap primarily to recharge her batteries, she's also learned the art well.

The compromises both households have had to make are paying off really well. That includes my sacrificed Christmas tree aesthetics. But the memory lingers on, and many of my favorite tree ornaments have stories to tell. They have their biographies, but where they came from isn't all they have to tell. They're also catalysts (sorry, didn't mean to use that word, but it fits so well) for stories beyond themselves.

I have enough tree ornament photos and enough kitty pics to rival any postings on Facebook. During 2017 I'll explore the stories hidden in some of the photos and share them with you.

How many of my articles will bring you ornamental beauty and how many will come with kitty pics? I don't know yet. I plan to find some kind of compromise that will make both the writing and the reading worthwhile. Navigating toward balance, and the best of both, sounds to me like good ways to move through the year. After all, isn't that the purpose of healthy compromise?

—Mary Kate Jordan

December 2016 Contributors

Thank you again to folks who remember to support the Monterey News all the year.

Ruth Rosenblatt
John Callahan
Liz Goodman
Michael & Laura Arnow
Dorene Beller
Natalie Manzino
Lisa Henriques
Steven & Rita Schwartz
Louise Amstead
Glenn Heller

Dennis J. Downing
Attorney at Law
17 Mahaiwe Street
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230
Telephone: (413) 528-5040
Facsimile: (413) 528-5095
Email:dennis.downing@verizon.net

BOOK$ THAT BALANCE
Books That Balance
Bookkeeping Services
Darlene Balestro
10 Stevens Lake
Great Barrington,
MA 01230
413.528.3944
413.446.4547
booksthatbalance@yahoo.com
intuit Certified ProAdvisor QuickBooks

The Children's Study Home
Helping Children and Families

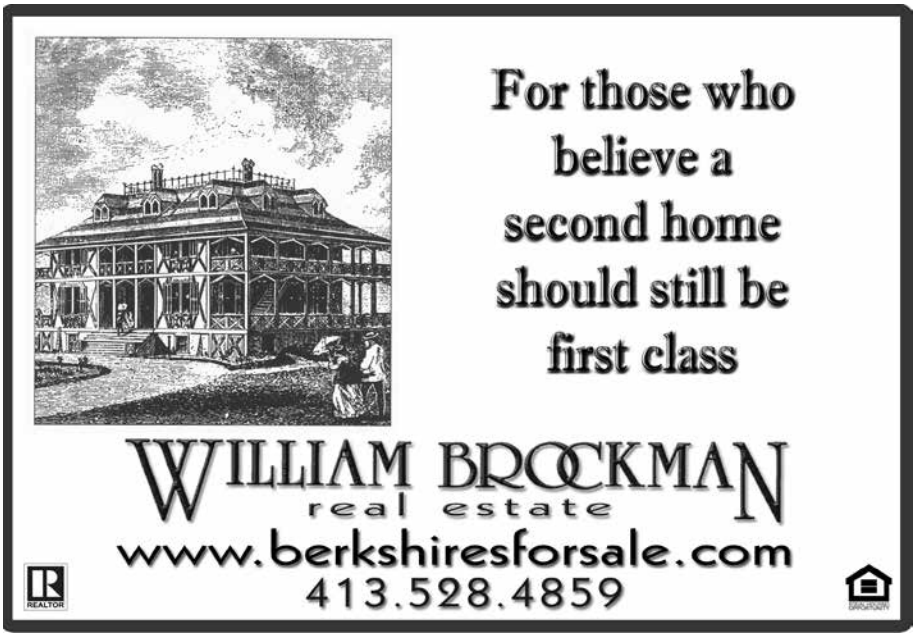
The Children's Study Home has provided on-site education for both day and residential students in Springfield, MA, since 1966. This past September we opened a day school in Great Barrington that serves students in kindergarten through grade twelve. Our schools provide a therapeutic learning environment and targeted special education programming that has state-recognized outcomes. Our educational programs and services further the social, educational, recreational, and vocational development of youth with complex learning, behavioral, and emotional needs.

The Children's Study Home is dedicated to partnering with families by providing innovative programs and services that strengthen children and families, empowering them to succeed at home, within the community, and throughout life. As the oldest nonprofit in western Massachusetts, we have served families from across the state for 150 years. We offer a broad range of programs to support children and families throughout western Massachusetts and Cape Cod.

We recently opened The Family Center on our Berkshire campus, which provides support and activities for all children and families in south Berkshire County. Currently, The Family Center is providing parent education workshops, activities for children, social events, and a drop-in center. As we grow, we need parents to help us determine how The Family Center can best serve the community. We are looking for parents to participate in program planning, our advisory board, and all other aspects of the center to make it a supportive, comfortable, useful, and fun addition to our community.

On January 12, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.,we are presenting, "Your Child's Emotional Life," a discussion about what depression, anxiety, and "normal" behavior look like, when to be concerned about your child, and what to do about it. On January 18, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.,we will begin a series on behavior management in which parents will learn strategies to help their children control their behavior.

For more information about The Family Center, or if you would like to stop by, please contact Vicky Linscott at 413-645-3400, ext. 200 or email her at vlinscott@studyhome.org. The Berkshire campus is located on Route 23 at the boundary of Great Barrington and Monterey.



Hockey Rink Schedule:

Youth hockey: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings from 7 to 9.

Adult hockey:

Tuesday and Thursdays evenings from 7 to 9.

Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30.

Mt. Everett High School hockey team plays Sunday evenings from 7 to 9.

All other times are shared with figure skaters, families, and recreational skaters—so skate responsibly! Please shovel before you leave.

For updates—call Parks Dept. at 528-1443 x248 (voicemail), or

Facebook—Monterey MA Outdoor-Skating Rink

Lake Garfield Working Group
December Update

Framing our Work

The Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) was established by the select board based on the shared recognition that "Lake Garfield is a Monterey town treasure." We have held monthly open meetings since September. This appointed group includes four Monterey resident representatives, two Friends of Lake Garfield representatives (plus one alternate), and one representative each from the conservation commission and select board, for a total of eight members.

We understand our vision to be "a healthy, safe, and accessible Lake Garfield." We understand our mission to be "Supporting town residents and public servants in making informed decisions about the health, safety, and accessibility to Lake Garfield," with a primary focus on the health of the lake and its watershed. We believe that it is essential to promote dialogue and collaboration among town residents, town public servants, and other stakeholders.

In service of this mission, we hold open monthly meetings that are posted on the town website's calendar and have initiated this series of articles in the *Monterey News*. We have also made specific recommendations to the select board regarding the 2016 drawdown of the lake and lake research. In early 2017, we will organize and make key documents and studies on lake health issues accessible to the public. We will also endeavor to organize a speaker series on key lake health topics and prepare lake health briefings for relevant town meetings. In general, our aim is to describe different scenarios regarding the health of Lake Garfield, as well as the pros and cons of specific management strategies.

December 12 Meeting

The LGWG met again on December 12 to continue assessing and developing strategies to help maintain the health of the lake. Topics discussed at the meeting included: allocation of grant funding for a lake water analysis; the LGWG mission and practical ways that the group can act in furtherance of it; increasing accessibility to relevant information for the public; and strategic planning as we move into this winter season.

Grant for Lake Water Analysis

During the special town meeting on October 6, the town approved matching funds for a lake water analysis grant applied for in April by Dr. Ken Wagner, under the employ of Friends of Lake Garfield. The state approved the grant in June. The scope of this analysis is to collect water samples from various in-flow sources throughout the lake and send them out for chemical analysis. This data will make up a lake-wide nutrient and chemical survey. This information is invaluable in effectively evaluating the composition of the lake and assessing the impact of various forces acting on the lake.

The timely allocation of grant funding is of concern because this sort of lake water survey is done during the winter season, after the lake undergoes its seasonal "inversion," a period of time when the change in water temperature causes the upper layers of water to sink and the lower layers to rise. In light of the approaching winter season, and the upcoming spring growth season, it is important to start the survey process as soon as possible.

After reviewing Dr. Wagner's grant application and exploring what other options for contracting this work are available, the LGWG believes that Dr. Wagner (Water Resource Services, Inc.) is the best choice for performing the sample collection for this survey. A representative of the LGWG attended the December 14 select board meeting to make this recommendation, and the select board voted to have WRS perform the work.

For ongoing studies and monitoring of the lake, the LGWG is interested in expanding its pool of involved scientists to potentially include professors and/or graduate students from nearby universities.

Next Steps: Eurasian Milfoil

Another time-sensitive agenda item that was discussed regarded preparations for

Alarm Response - Security Checks
Key Holder - Property Management
Residential - Commercial

KMB
HOUSE CHECKING
UNLIMITED

Kristopher M. Balestro
10 Stevens Lake
Great Barrington, MA 01230

kbalestro@aol.com
home 413.528.3944
cell 413.429.7094

CHARLES J. FERRIS
Attorney at Law

500 Main St. Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
617 Main Rd. PO Box 63
Monterey, MA 01245

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE
IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK

Free Consultation
on any Legal Matter

Evening and Weekend
Appointments Available

PHONE (413) 528-8900
FAX (413) 528-9132

taking actions in spring 2017 to mitigate the spread of E. milfoil (see previous articles). In order to effectively employ any mitigation technique prior to the upcoming growth season, a notice of intent (NOI) must be submitted to the Town of Monterey Conservation Commission before the end of January 2017.

Monday, January 9 Meeting

The LGWG will be devoting its January 9 meeting to assessing the information it has collected on all viable treatment options. Each option's impact and viability will be examined and will undergo a comparative cost analysis.

Treatment options that have been discussed and that will be on the agenda include: biological management (introduction of a milfoil weevil population); mechanical management (hand pulling invasive species, suction harvesting, extended use of benthic barriers, and winter drawdown); chemical management (use of selective herbicides). In order to effectively mitigate the spread of E.milfoil, a combination of these techniques will likely be required.

The group will produce recommendations that will inform an NOI describing an action plan for the upcoming spring growth season. This plan will undergo review by the conservation commission before any further action is taken.

Repetitive Trials and Learning

In all our work, the LGWG wishes to balance short-term urgency with long-term strategy. We seek to take a systems approach to viewing Lake Garfield within its watershed, recognizing that a host of factors influence the health of the lake. The challenges are complex and interrelated, so we expect the solutions to also be complex and interrelated.

We encourage everyone to take an iterative learning approach to this work as we continue to test and assess the impact of actions that we, as a community, choose to take to help sustain Lake Garfield as a town treasure. We recognize that some trials and assessments will be required to achieve a good balance between human demands on the lake and the natural integrity of the lake.

Public Engagement

An important role of the LGWG is to inform the public on the various concerns regarding the health of the lake. This article series will be supplemented with access to relevant digital files that members of the group (as well as guest speakers) have shared with one another. Townspeople are invited to attend meetings of the LGWG and may request to take part in discussions or be put on the agenda as a guest speaker.

Meetings of the LGWG are open to the public and are held at the town hall. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9, at 7 p.m.

—Eric Danforth and Dominic Stucker
Lake Garfield Working Group

between the lines
through January 14

KNOX GALLERY
Monterey Library

Eleanor Bounous, Watercolorist: A Memorial Exhibit

January 20 - March 4
Reception: Saturday, Jan. 21, 6-7:30pm

Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Service · 10 a.m.
in the Meeting House
Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

For Information and Assistance:
413-528-5850
www.montereychurch.org
Find us on Facebook too.

Camp Half Moon

Celebrating 90 Amazing Summers on Lake Buel

Sleepover & Day Camp
Boys & Girls Ages 3 to16
Flexible Sessions
Heated Pool Skate Park High Ropes
Gymnastics Zip-Line Tennis Sailing
Team Sports Dance Crafts Pottery Waterskiing Judo Archery Rocketry Golf
Yoga Camping & so much more!

info@camphalfmoon.com
www.camphalfmoon.com
Call 888 528 0940

Come Join the Fun!

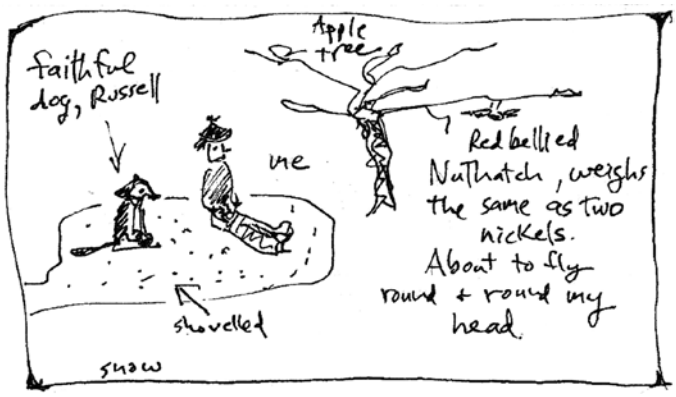
More Redbellies

Here in Massachusetts we have two kinds of nuthatches. There is the common or white-bellied nuthatch, and then the smaller red-breasted or red-bellied one.

The name "nuthatch" suggests that the little birds cause nuts to hatch, and in fact they do. What pops out of a nut is not a baby bird or frog or turtle, of course, but the nutmeat. The way the birds hatch the nuts is by whacking them with their beaks until they crack, or hatch. Years ago in college in North Wales, I had a classmate who loved the local nuthatches and always exclaimed, "Look, a nuh-thatch, how lovely!" Her name was Mandy and we called her Mandolin because it's fun to mess with words. Still, she really thought her pronunciation was correct. My dad, as a youngster, thought the female sheep was called an "ee-wee." This is what comes of too much reading.

In nuthatches, red-breasted or red-bellied refers to the rusty-colored underparts of the male. Last month I wrote about red-bellied woodpeckers, whose bellies are hard to see. Woodpeckers, like nuthatches, clamber around on trees. The two kinds of birds have very different climbing styles, though, and one result is you can see the belly on a nuthatch, but you rarely can on a woodpecker.

Nuthatches hang on with their strong toes and sharp, curved claws. They can walk around on a horizontal branch, just as easily on its underside as on its top. On a vertical trunk, they can walk straight up or straight down, heads first. Woodpeckers never do this, as their climbing and scooting around on trees depends upon their strong feet and at the same time their stiff tails, braced against the tree. Woodpeckers never walk headfirst down tree trunks, and when climbing they "move upwards with a series of hitching steps, their tails being propped against the tree trunk for added support." (Helen Cruickshank, writing in her book *Thoreau on Birds*, p. 140, McGraw Hill, 1964.)



Redbellies, as I'll call the little nuthatches, make their nest holes in trees, as do woodpeckers. They never use an old hole, or take over one that was made by another bird, as do chickadees, for instance. They start from scratch and it takes at least a week to finish it, with both birds working. One account describes the birds marking out an entrance with a series of small holes forming a circle about one inch in diameter, then working inward and downward. (Edward Howe Forbush, *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, Vol. III, p. 361, Norwood Press, 1929.)

Once the nest is carved out and ready, the birds get to work smearing pitch or resin on the outside and the inside of the opening. Some say they then sometimes mess up their feathers going in and out; others say they dive straight in and never touch these edges. I have watched a wonderful YouTube mini-documentary on these birds, and when the youngsters get ready to fly, they lean up against that pitchy doorway and do not appear to get sticky. You can check this if you like by looking up "Lesleythebirdnerd" on YouTube. But I warn you, one amazing little movie leads to another, and they are all marvelous. You can stay inside all day with this.

I start the days outside, every day, and just recently I was sitting on the ground at the top of the garden when I heard a little bird come zooming into the apple tree right nearby. I could hear it walking around on the rough bark the way chickadees do, but it had not flown like a chickadee, Next thing I knew, it was going "ank, ank," definitely a nuthatch, but then it made sweet little squeaking and twittering calls I'd never heard before. I risked turning my head, and spotted a little redbelly, working over the rough apple bark. Twitter, twitter, squeaky, squeaky. And then it flew down, right to me, and buzzed round and round my head two or three times before zooming off!

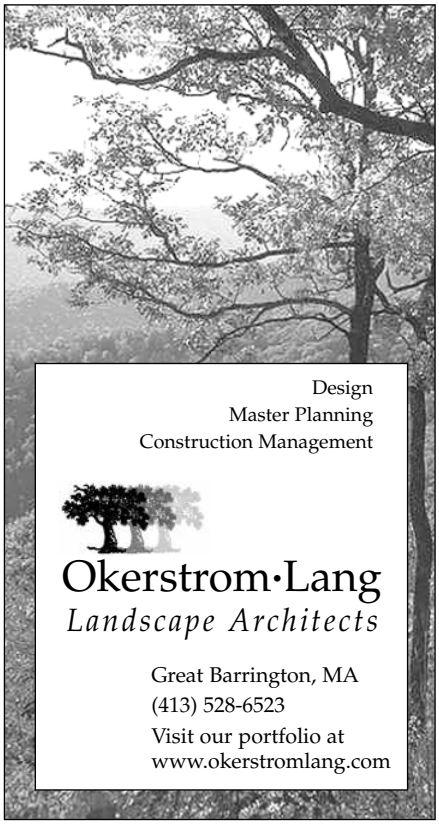
That's my story. I was wearing a bright red scarf. I have been back every morning, same scarf, same tree, and sometimes there is a redbelly in the tree, So far, no more buzzing around me for a closer look. Maybe if my bark were rougher, or if there were seeds or nuts to be found. I could try this.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Serving Monterey for over 30 years Call Jay 528-5099

JAY AMIDON PAINTING

Clean, Orderly, and Accommodating
Staining · Painting · Interior · Exterior · Old & New



Song of a Loving Woman

A slender branch of birch
broken
hangs down dead yet red
against this year's winter
oh, dry gentle twigs, you are catching
the light as it is dimming
in the evening as I walk by

your green leaves once hung green and lush
and young and hushed—
ah, my heart, there is more life
among those other empty, giving fingers
whose leaves are fallen, fallen, fallen

do they not yet hold the undying sun
of last year's
radiant, rising love?

—A. O. Howell, January 1997

I will give my dream
To a passing bird
So that he will sing
And my heart will be heard

All can listen
But only one will hear
The beating, beating
Of my love in the air.

—Lesley Givet, March 1997

Dream Cycles

I've talked to people all my life,
Loving what they had to say
About giving up their dreams,
The most terrible price to pay.

They're all responsible citizens
And their families are their pride
But something down inside their soul
Has shriveled up and died.

Now they dream for their children,
Hoping they never make
Choices that make their lives
Seem like an endless mistake

He was to be an actor
That one, a baseball star.
Now they stand and wonder
When they arrived where they are

The dreams could fill a volume
Dancer, singer, and poet
Somehow we all get lost
Long before we know it

But our thread-bare dreams
Help to strengthen the seams
Of the fabric we give our children
To shape and fashion THEIR dreams.

So in their dying our dreams gave life,
To the hope our children will do
The things we never dared to chance
And make THEIR dreams come true.

But, in truth, our children will stand,
Where we are standing now
Hoping their children find the way
To fulfill their dreams, somehow.

—Bruce W. Snow Sr., April, 1997

Pause

For now
The work is done
For a moment
Duty is fulfilled
Demands fade away
Stowed and stilled
Put the papers down
Don't pick up the phone
Raise the latch on the door
Walk away from the clutter
Turn away from the din
Smile for no reason
Step into the sun

—Nick Hardcastle, January 1997

Monterey–Looking Back Twenty Years–"Monterey News" from 1997

January begins a new year, but the years past have been important as well. As we shift gears for the new year, I am offering the opportunity to look back at events from the 1997 Monterey News *issues. Back issues are available by request for use in the library.* —*Stephen Moore, Editor*

Sesquicentennial Celebration

The big story from the 1997 *Monterey News* issues was the 150th anniversary celebration of the creation of Monterey as an independent town, when it separated from Tyringham. A huge number of people were involved as organizers in many different ways, and as participants at the many events during the year.

The first mention of the planning was in the January issue, with a letter received by the select board to bring them up-to-date on plans for the busy weekend of August 1 to 3. There were "plans in the hopper for activities for all ages. Some ideas are swimming and fishing competitions, an antique car display, house tours, baseball, softball, dancing, sunrise breakfast, dinner, etc." A parade had been ruled out, but some sort of commemorative booklet was underway. The committee chair was Ray Tryon.

Ian Jenkins was also a key organizer, and wrote monthly letters to the town that were published in the *Monterey News*. In his first letter of the year he informed folks that "the celebration summer will kick off with an expanded Memorial Day parade. Memorial Day is a day of tribute, history, and celebration." (See more about the Memorial Day celebration on page 16.)

In the February paper, Jenkins announced that the committee had plans for "a new, landmark attraction—a community gazebo." He also announced that Peter Murkett and Kim Hines had taken on the role of producing a book that will focus on the community life of Monterey. He appealed to people to help create the book by "raiding your attic," checking "family letters and journals," looking for anything that helps to illuminate Monterey's history.

With an eye toward a "gala semi-formal dance" event in August, Del Martin and others were organizing ballroom dance lessons. Plans were made for a commemorative quilt to be sewn (see the photo on page 15). A Monterey slogan contest was underway. An original program about the Bidwell family was in the works.

By the April issue the coordinators were listing specifics about events, the sale and cost of tickets, the adoption of the slogan "tis the people who make the place," which would be wrapped around the town seal (created by Edith Wilson), and more. Clearly the Monterey pot was headed to a full boil.

In May it was announced that the gazebo had been ordered and would be placed behind the firehouse, where it still is today. A large banner to hang across Route 23 from the Monterey General Store to the Tryon

The new gazebo on Memorial Day 1997.

Tea Room had been ordered. T-shirts and caps with the celebration logo, in various sizes and colors, were on order. A committee had been formed to create an exhibit of arts and crafts by local artists and artisans. (*It appears that by this point it would have been difficult to live in Monterey and not be on one committee or another.*)

A local autograph hound, Mari Makuc finally earned a signature t-shirt, which on the back sported the statement that "Monterey is the heavenly headwaters of the Konkapot where Walter is Postmaster." The town's celebrity postmaster, Walter Parks, signed Mari's shirt. From the article it is clear that residents could only obtain his signature by dint of a great deal of volunteer work on the celebration, and that to prevent mischief by folks desperate for these special shirts, they were stored in an undisclosed location.

Provisions & Produce
Prepared foods
Pastries
Breakfast & Lunch

And so much more...
Open every day!

448 Main Road.
528-5900
www.monterey-general-store.com

MGS
MONTEREY
GENERAL STORE
EST. 1780

G. E. MUNSON
SATELLITE &
PROPERTY CARE

DISH NETWORK/DIRECTV
SATELLITE INTERNET
HD TV ANTENNA SYSTEMS
HOME THEATRE &
SURROUND SOUND SYSTEMS

SEASONAL CARETAKING
YEAR-ROUND MAINTENANCE
OF YOUR HOME & PROPERTY

call George (413) 258-4887
email: munsonsat@aol.com
P.O. Box 518, Monterey, MA 01255
(fully insured)

Monterey–Looking Back Twenty Years–"Monterey News" from 1997

It must have been a great time, and tired everyone out. With all the energy expended planning, communicating, organizing, and then enjoying the fun, there is a remarkable lapse in the *Monterey News*. The celebration happened on August 1, 2, and 3. The September issue, with the exception of a few photos and a letter of appreciation from Ray Tryon, had almost no reporting from the weekend. Apparently, even weeks later, folks were still recovering. All that remained was to tie up the finances and look to the future.

Celebration Financing

All this partying required funds. The town had appropriated a total of $55,000 for the celebration, through articles passed at one annual town meeting and two special town meetings. "Expenditures for souvenirs, the anniversary ball, the pancake breakfast, the gazebo, the picnic tables, and the banner were $57,155. The gazebo and picnic tables were $8,080 and $1,005, respectively, and were considered an investment that the town will use for many years to come." Deducting these two items brought the spending down to $48,070. On the positive side, revenue of $42,775 from donations, sales of tickets and souvenirs came in. As of the November report, written by John Ryder, with the committee anticipating possibly another $2,000 in future sales, it was concluded that the whole party cost the town only $3,295.

Maggie Leonard

Monterey quilters for the sesquicentennial celebration (left to right): Barbara Tryon, Shirley Olds, Carole Zarlin, Jan Emmonds, Pamela Johnson, Kathy Bracken, and Mary Kate Jordan. Not pictured, Anita Carroll Weldon. The quilt is hanging in the town hall.

Lost in Time (Capsule)

The year's activities to celebrate the town's history, people coming together at so many events creating such a sense of community, created an understandable wish to not have it end. In September, the select board and the anniversary committee decided that the best way to preserve this wonderful year would be to create a time capsule, and they asked Gige O'Connell to be the coordinator. The intention was that the time capsule would be opened fifty years hence, or perhaps one hundred years.

Evidence of the year's events from January 1 through December 31 would be placed in the capsule, and a solicitation went out to the town for photographs and other materials that folks thought should be included.

In the December issue, O'Connell wrote an article titled "Memory Lane," with more ideas behind a time capsule, and some of the details that had been decided upon. Peter Murkett agreed to make a sturdy box of local wood, and the time capsule would be stored in the Knox Trail Museum. O'Connell took a photo of Mark Makuc holding his newborn son, Joe, who will be fifty when the box is opened.

But a funny thing has happened in the intervening years. When contacted, Gige O'Connell had only a vague memory about the box. Barbara Swann remembers something about the box but says it isn't with the historical society materials. Mark Makuc remembers something about the box, but has no specific recollection of it, or where it might be in the library building. Ray Tryon remembers that there was talk of making a time capsule, but didn't have anything to do with it. Peter Murkett remembers building a box, but when asked if he remembered any details about it, he replied, "Umm, it has six sides."

If there are any readers who remember specific details about the time capsule, where it might be, what might be in it, please contact the *Monterey News,* and we'll let others know to see if it can jog some memories.

PETER S. VALLIANOS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
✤
413-528-0055
fax: 413-528-6475
email: p.vallianos@verizon.net

30 years experience in Monterey
serving your real estate needs
including purchase and sales,
zoning issues.
Board Member,
Monterey Preservation Land Trust

30 Stockbridge Road (Route 7)
Great Barrington, MA 01230
(Just north of Belcher Square)

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Memorial Day Parade

The Memorial Day parade was an integral part of the 150th anniversary, and so a lot of planning was done, resulting in a large number of participants both in the parade and along the route.

In March, Stephanie Grotz reached out to gather people to help with a spectacular Memorial Day parade. She wrote, "Due to the energy of our committee and the inspiring responses from so many of you, we seem to be well on our way to Enchantment, with a capital E!"

Grotz made another appeal to people in April for various useful items to be used on floats and so on, and for help documenting the parade. While that was only twenty years ago, she wrote, seemingly from a previous era, "Please plan to bring those cameras. We would love to have your doubles!"

Masking some disappointment that President Clinton's plans were uncertain, Grotz announced that at least officials from Tyringham (of which Monterey was a part prior to 1847) had agreed to participate in the parade events.

The June issue contained a single photo (the paper came out only a few days after), but it showed a huge crowd in the village center. While the individuals were hard to make out in the photo, the report in July listed many of the people who marched.

Maggie Leonard

The past was represented by the 17th Connecticut Fife and Drum Corp playing Revolutionary era marches, General Knox (Del Rogers) with oxen and cannon, Mahican Indian Chief Konkapot (David McAllester), and first settler John Brewer (Noah Wixon) with cart and oxen. See the photos of the chief and the general on page 1.

It was "estimated that nearly 1500 people watched under blue skies while A-10s flew over." The parade was concluded with the "biggest weiner roast in Monterey history—about 2000—which kicked off the Sesquicentennial Summer Celebration."

Monterey Veteran's Memorial

July 4, 1997, Dedication

There was an appeal in the February issue for donations to create a Monterey Veteran's Memorial, with the effort to be led by Dean Amidon. By the April issue the plans for the memorial, which had been in the works for years, were really taking shape. A concept drawing of the memorial, by Frank D'Amato, (on the right,) was published, along with a list of veterans from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

That spring two stone steles were installed at the memorial, one for World War II veterans and a second for veterans from the wars in Korea and Vietnam. The veterans' committee had hopes for a separate memorial for Revolutionary and Civil War veterans to be created at a later date. (World War I veterans were listed on a plaque in front of the library, where it still stands.) The memorial, on the northwest corner of the intersection of Blue Hill Road and Main Road, is situated on a three-quarter acre site that previously had been purchased by the town as part of the cemetery expansion, which the town donated for the memorial.

CONCEPT DRAWING - MONTEREY VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Visit MontereyMassLibrary.org

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday ..... 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Wednesday .....2–5 p.m.
Thursday .....4–6 p.m.
Friday.....4–8 p.m.
Saturday .. 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
.....7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

MMMMMONTEREY: A CELEBRATION IN SLOGANS

150 years of woodland pleasures. 150 years of arboreal repose. A different kind of town. A different kind of treasure. A different kind of post office. The town where Walter lives. The right place at the right time. A little bit of heaven in the hills. A little bit of heaven in the higher elevations. It doesn't get any better than this. 150 years of peaceful splendor. The town with all the answers. The antidote for city living. Higher than you could imagine. Beyond the timberline. Where the Goddess resides. Well worth the drive. Are we there yet? Beat you to the hammock! The place to start is Monterey. The original. Monterey for life. We shall never surrender. Small town living made right. Small town – big adventure. A helluva good town. Community in the making. Where nobody bothers you. Hand hewn. Heart held. 150 years of yee ha! What more could a person ask for? A pleasure past measure. Only the best is good enough. The big payoff. At the outermost edge. A glacial outcome. Just up tornado alley. Where speedboat meets canoe. Home of the brave. Home of the pileated woodpecker. The pileated woodpecker mecca. Best settlement this side of the Housatonic. The heavenly headwaters of the Konkapot. The black fly capital of the Berkshires. Elvis was here. Elvis IS here. Where the women are strong, the men are, you know. Fantasy or reality? You decide. We always get more snow. Cold on the outside, warm on the inside. A hinterland hideaway. Road closed from November to April. 100% pure and natural. From concentrate. A good place to concentrate. Fun with a purpose. A little bit country, a little bit rock n roll. Happy birthday to our great-great-great-grandtown. Less of a town and more of a treasure. A town with art and heart. A town to remember. A time to regale.

MmmmMaureen Meier

Every Community Has At Least One REALTOR® Like Nancy Kalodner.

(In the Berkshires, it's Nancy Kalodner.)

413-528-9595
nancybenchmark@verizon.net

BENCHMARK REAL ESTATE

Woodruff Mountain
Landscaping

Whether you are looking to renovate, rejuvenate, or just simply maintain your existing landscape, please contact Woodruff Mountain Landscaping to help you.
We offer a full line of outdoor services and are fully equipped and properly trained to help with any landscape construction project; excavation, stone walls & patios, tree & plant care, and driveway repair, to name a few.

Please call Tom Brazie to further discuss your projects needs.
References and portfolios available upon request.
Proudly servicing our area for over 15 years.

413-229-2919
woodruffmountain@aol.com

Monterey—Looking Back Twenty Years—"Monterey News" from 1997

"Monterey, A Local History"

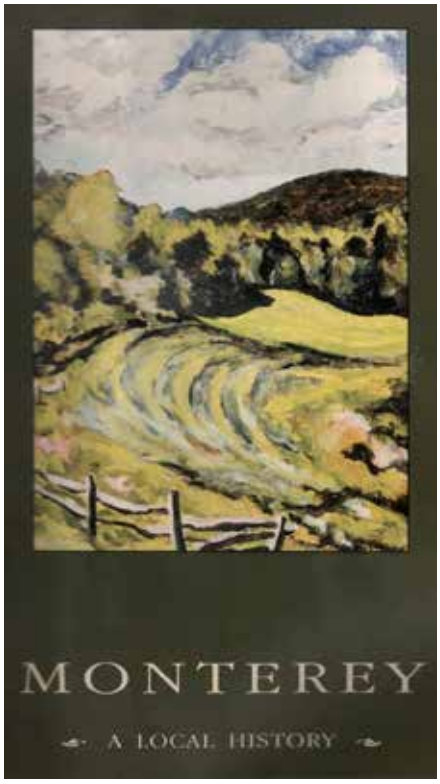
The July issue announced that *Monterey, A Local History*, edited by Peter Murkett, with editorial support from Ian Jenkins and Kim Hines, would make its debut at the annual Monterey Firemen's Steak Roast. The book, originally intended to be one hundred pages long, had grown to two hundred pages, with over 175 graphics and photos. A single print run of only 1,200 copies was planned, and if folks missed their chance at purchasing a copy, reprints would not be available until the Bicentennial Celebration.

The cover art, by Lew Sheffey, is a view to the west toward Livermore Peak from fields off the Wellman Road.

Southern Berkshire Regional School District

Voting Representation

This was an issue that was contentious in 1996 and carried over into 1997. At stake was how to fairly structure voting on the school committee the five towns (Sheffield, the largest, and New Marlborough, Monterey, Alford, and Egremont) in accordance with the 14th Amendment's rule of one person/one vote. Sheffield had sued the four other towns. Judge Michael Ponsor stipulated that the SBRSD was not part of the lawsuit. In August the judge threw the question back to the five towns for them to find a solution, and if they failed to do so, said he would issue a decision by December 15.



Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

Join us on January 18 to hear:
Wendy Germain

Wendy will discuss the Monterey History Project, inspired by *Monterey, A Local History.*

See the community potluck supper article on page 2

3rd Wednesdays, October–May
6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Monterey Church

For more information,
call Kyle Pierce, 528-9213

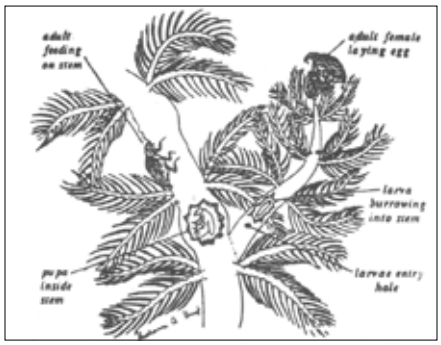
Other News Items

Septic Systems and Cell Towers

At the special town meeting on September 5, voters established a $200,000 state revolving fund for the purpose of granting loans to property owners for the repair or replacement of failing septic systems.

The same town meeting voted a six-month moratorium on cellular towers so that the planning board could determine the most appropriate sites.

Lake Garfield Milfoil



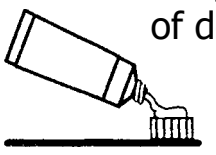
Lake Garfield was already infested with Eurasian milfoil. Concerned residents were investigating options to combat the milfoil, which included the introduction of water milfoil weevils. This weevil bores into the stem, destroying the plant before it flowers. An agreement was reached by March to introduce the weevils at the east end of the lake, which is less disturbed by motorized boats. The use of the weevils was still experimental in other area lakes.

Monterey Grange Disbands

In July, the Monterey Grange presented the select board with a letter informing them that after eighty-seven years, the Monterey Grange was disbanding.

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist

All phases
of dentistry



528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

Christopher Blair
DESIGN AND PLANNING
Residential Design
Kitchen/Bath Design
Construction Management
Project Representation
413.528.4960 17 Mahaiwe Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230

Monterey–Looking Back Twenty Years–"Monterey News" from 1997

Tornado Redux

On the evening of July 3, Monterey was once again visited by a tornado, which reminded everyone of the devastating tornado from only two years earlier. The storm began in earnest with "rain, hail, thunder, and lightning around 5 p.m." It touched down a mile or so east of the village, south of the east end of Lake Garfield, somewhere between the Sandisfield Road and Route 23. It crossed the lake, and then proceeded to some vacant land off Mt. Hunger Road. The tornado in 1995 was classified as an F-4, with winds between 207 to 260 miles per hour along a path of approximately twenty miles. This year's event was rated an F-2, with wind speeds of "only" 113 to 157 mph, and traveled for about seven miles in touch with the ground.

Fortunately there were no reports of deaths or serious injuries, which sadly was not the case two years before.

History of the Monterey Meetinghouse

Delight Dodyk and Kathy Wasiuk continued their monthly column, which had begun in the December 1996 issue, on the history of the Monterey Meetinghouse. The January issue picked up the story with the decision to build a new meetinghouse in the 1840s, and by the April issue the content focused on the meetinghouse during the twentieth century. The series ended in the May issue with a personal memoir, written by Kathy Wasiuk, of her "coming-up" in the church.

People Serving the Town

On the select board:

- Peter Brown
- Fred Chapman
- Gige O'Connell (retired at town meeting)
- Muriel Lazzarini (elected at town meeting)
- Southern Berkshire Regional School District rep.—Jed Lipsky
- Town Clerk—Barbara Swann
- Town Moderator—Mark Makuc
- Fire Chief—Ray Tryon
- Highway Foreman—Don Amstead
- Police Chief—Gareth Backhaus
- Monterey Church Pastor—Keith Snow
- State Representative—Christopher Hodgkins
- State Senator—Andrea Nuciforo, Jr.

At the Monterey News

- Peter Murkett and Laura Gaccione, editors

Regular Essayists

- Anita Carroll-Weldon— Bidwell House
- Stephanie Grotz— "Personal Notes"
- Representative Christopher Hodgkins— "Rep Rap"
- A. O. Howell—"Upon My Word"
- Mary Kate Jordan—astrology
- Del Martin— "Fireman's Blotter"
- Bonner McAllester—natural history and wildlife report
- Deborah Mielke—school news
- Peter Murkett– "Voxed"
- Senator Andrea Nuciforo, Jr. —"Senator Says"
- Joan Woodward Reed—"On the Road Again," from Alabama
- Joyce Sheffey—Monterey Preservation Land Trust, solid waste committee
- Pastor Keith Snow—Monterey church news
- Mary Wallace—Monterey Grange
- Many other folks in town contributed as reporters and letter writers.

Poetry

- Nancy Adams
- Sheldon Fenn
- Lesley Givet
- Nick Hardcastle
- A. O. Howell
- John B. Humphrey
- Mary Kate Jordan
- Eleanor Kimberly
- Marshall Messer
- Claire Mielke
- Rebecca Saletan
- Bruce Snow
- Richard Zubrowski

Artwork

- Joe Baker
- Sudi Baker
- Maureen Banner
- Christopher Carnese
- Erika Crofut
- Frank D'Amato
- Heidi Harris
- Bonner McAllester
- Peter Murkett
- and numerous children

Obituaries

- Sheldon Fenn, 85, (February, p. 3)
- Darren Fitzpatrick, 20, (February, p.22)
- Christopher Burkhart, 21, (April, p.22)
- Joyce Morse, 80, (July, p. 22)
- Hans Kessler, 79, (August, p.20)
- Earnest Heath, 67, (August, p.20)
- Florence Brown, 94, (August, p.20)
- Roland Barnett, 78, (October, p.20)
- Fred Lancome, 86, (October, p.20)

IN 2015, BERKSHIRE PROPERTY AGENTS BROUGHT THE BUYERS TO 9 OF THE 17 RESIDENTIAL SALES IN MONTEREY.* PLEASE LET US HELP YOU SELL YOUR HOME.

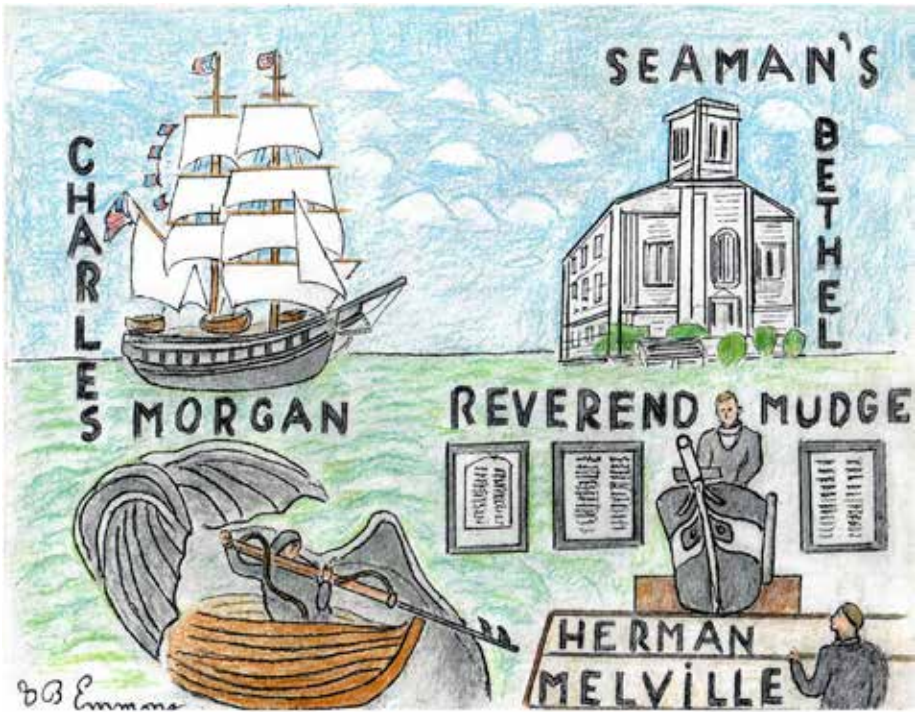
12 RAILROAD ST
GREAT BARRINGTON MA

BERKSHIRE PROPERTY AGENTS.COM

413 528 6800

*BASED ON BERKSHIRE BOARD OF REALTORS FIGURES

Whaling Revisited



The life and work of Herman Melville (1819–1894) coincided with the rise and fall of the whaling industry. In 1841 he set sail from Fairhaven in the whaler *Acushnet*, in quest for sea-going experience. His adventure led to the launch in 1851 of the nautical narrative *Moby-Dick,* the most prodigious novel in American literature. Before his departure, he stayed in New Bedford, which he described as the dearest place on Earth to visit. He attended church at Seaman's Bethel to hear the legendary Reverend Mudge preach from his bowsprit pulpit about dangerous encounters with monsters of the deep, surrounded by memorial wall plaques with names of those who had perished.

The sperm whale was known to fight back with fury to ram a ship, and stove it in, actually sinking the whalers *Kathleen*, *Pocahontas*, *Ann Alexander*, and the *Essex* out of Nantucket. This provided inspiration for the plot of *Moby-Dick*, and for Nathanial Philbrick's *Heart of the Sea.* At the New Bedford Whaling Museum the most popular annual event, and nexus to whaling, is the *Moby Dick* marathon in mid-January, which takes twenty-five hours to read the entire masterpiece aloud.

Melville worked most intensely on the book during the winter of 1850-1851 at his Arrowhead residence in Pittsfield. Arrowhead is now a museum, welcoming as many as 6,000 visitors a year. People can also visit the Melville Room at the Berkshire Atheneum in Pittsfield. (The Monterey library has a free pass, good for two people, to Arrowhead.)

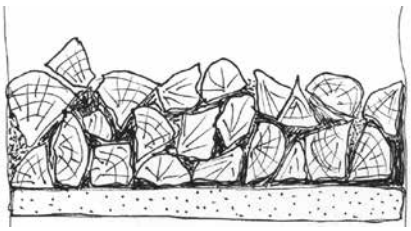
Out the window near his second floor writing desk, he took inspiration from the view of the Berkshire mountains. Melville and his contemporaries joked about the mountains exuding kinetic creative energy to inspire their work. This was particularly the case for Melville, as his view of Mount Graylock resembled the shape of the hump of a rising whale. As the work progressed, he took his publisher, Every Doychinck, and friends Nathaniel Hawthorne, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Catherine Sedgewick, and Dudley Field, on a picnic to the top of nearby Monument Mountain where a thunderstorm with wind and rain crowded them under a rock shelter.

Melville, who had a literary obsession about man against the elements, stood out on the peak to entertain his guests by waving his arms and shouting nautical commands, like a ship captain, into the wind and rain, perhaps as a dramatic re-creation of Captain Ahab's fanatical furor against the white whale. Like the *Moby-Dick* marathon at the whaling museum in New Bedford, Melville's mountain climbing is also reenacted annually on the first Sunday in August, attracting literary historians and visiting participants.

For many in the whaling era who "went down to the sea in ships," they found they sea a temperamental and dangerous mistress for both great gains in wealth as well as loss of life and property. Fortunately, at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, as well as at Melville's Arrowhead Museum, we can revisit the literary and historical heritage of this epic period in New England. The last whaling vessel was the *Charles B. Morgan*, which was restored in the Mystic, CT boatyard, and is now retired to New London.

—George B. Emmons

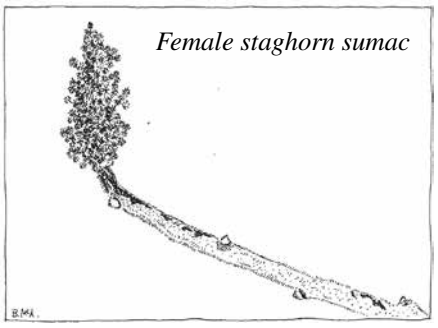
George Emmons's monthly drawings are for sale at the Monterey General Store and the church basement as a contribution to the Berkshire Fish Hatchery's scholarship fund.



Berkshire Greenscapes
Organic and Sustainable Garden Care
For a Healthier Tomorrow
ORGANIC LAND CARE
NOFA
organiclandcare.net
ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL
413-207-1281
www.berkshiregreenscapes.com

Wildlife Report
November and December

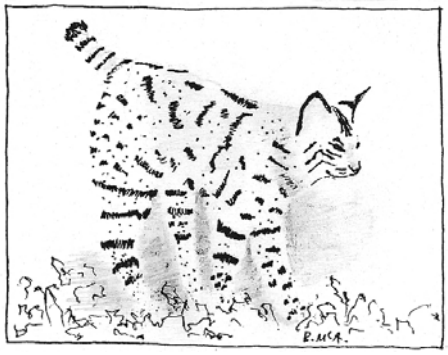
Winter bluebirds are with us this year, reported both by Suzanne Sawyer and by hikers on Wellman Road. The Sawyers have three pairs, competing for two nestboxes at their place, and on Wellman Road there is a small flock, as there has been sometimes in the winter in years gone by. Wondering what bluebirds eat here in the winter, I looked to Forbush (1929) and found an account in his *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States* from a correspondent 1912. That year Massachusetts winter bluebirds were eating berries from sumacs and bayberries. We always have plenty of sumac fruits here, but bayberries are coastal.



Female staghorn sumac

The report from Tiegen and Maddox Stucker this month, sent in by Dominic Stucker, tells of "several deer crossing Blue Hill Road. They also spotted bear tracks by moonlight when hiking off Beartown Mountain Road. Tiegen points out that humans are animals; they spotted plenty of these."

Here on East Hupi Road we are lucky this winter to see and hear many red-breasted nuthatches. Some years we don't see any.



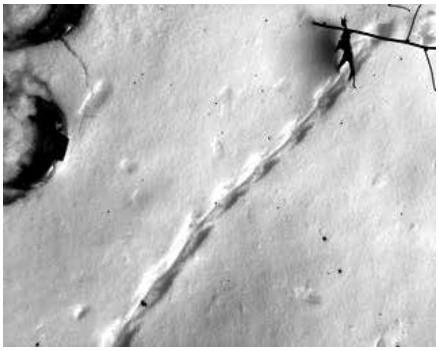
Suzanne Sawyer also tells of a bobcat she saw down in Great Barrington, behind the Hevreh building, and Karen Shreefter saw a bobcat here in Monterey, "strolling along my stonewall," at her place on Blue Hill Road.

Thanks for your calls and notes, your wild sightings. Humans are certainly wild, deep down.

—Bonner McAllester 528-9385
bonnermca@gmail.com.

Maureen Banner

A bird's snow angel. Notice the impression of the feet and the tips of the primary feathers. At top is a ski pole impression.



Maureen Banner

Solitary mouse-reindeer track.

Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local References *Sliding Scale*

with

KIT PATTEN

Lotus Palm School Certified

"The best massage I ever had." –E.D., Monterey

413-528-3798

Bottomline Builders
Monterey, MA · (413) 528-1260

We are a detail-oriented, full-service, hands-on contracting and building company located in Monterey, MA. From foundation to finish, we provide the know-how to 'exceed your expectations.' Whether you want a built-in bookcase, a new sunroom, family room, or your new country home, our crew delivers the craftsmanship and courtesy you expect and deserve.

PO Box 567
155 Main Road
Monterey, MA 01245
(413) 528-1260

bottomlinebuilders.com
Scott Jenssen

scott@bottomlinebuilders.net
Massachusetts CSL 62673 - Massachusetts HIC 133864

TKG The Kinderhook Group

Christine Martin
Real Estate Sales Agent

(413) 717-7217
10 Elm Street,
Stockbridge, MA

Representing Buyers & Sellers

Serving the Berkshires, Hudson Valley, Albany Capital Region, and Litchfield Hills

www.tkgre.com

Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. This is a work in progress, and we welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

www.MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Monday, January 9, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Chair Yoga: Tuesdays from 9 to 10 a.m.

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, January 10, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Monday, January 9 and 23, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, January 12, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, January 12, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, January 4, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursday, January 12 and 26, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Wednesdays, January 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 9 a.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Town Hall Closings

The Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 2 for New Year's Day and Monday, January 16 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

We recommend always calling ahead.

Other News

We are pleased to welcome to town hall our new accountant, Carolyn Davis-Smith, and new treasurer, Theresa Spohnholz. The each bring unique experiences and expertise in finance and management to their respective roles in town government. They will began on December 30.

We anticipate a much more robust select board corner in the February issue when we will start keeping you up to date on the proposed FY18 budget process, already in the works. Please see Kenn Basler's article, "Our Tax Bills," on page 4.

— Kenn Basler, Chair
Steve Weisz and Carol Edelman
Monterey Select Board
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(carol@montereyma.gov)
For general inquiries, please click

"Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Roger and Del Tryon photographed in for posterity during the 1997 Pan-Mass Challenge.

Maggie Leonard

Ray Tryon welcomes all to the Sesquicentennial Celebration Anniversary Ball in August 1997.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Town Administrator
528-1443 x119
townadmin@montereyma.gov

Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Fire Department (non-emergency): 528-3136
fire_service@montereyfire.org

Highway Department.: 528-1734
mhwy@verizon.net

Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency): 528-1443 x116,
Alternate emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov
(for licenses and town records)

Calendar

Every Tuesday: Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

Every Wednesday: Council on Aging, "Matter of Balance," from 1 to 3 p.m., town hall.

Through January 14: Knox Gallery. between the lines, winter community exhibit. See page 6.

Monday, January 9: Lake Garfield Working Group to discuss treatment options, 7 p.m., at town hall. See pages 10-11.

Thursday, January 12:

Berkshire VNA blood pressure and wellness clinic, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Your child's emotional life, at Children's Home Study, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. See page 9.

Wednesday, January 18:

Behavior management series, at Children's Home Study, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. See page 9.

Community potluck dinner, 6 p.m., Wendy Germain presenting. Monterey Meetinghouse. See page 2.

Friday, January 20: *Monterey News* deadline.

Saturday, January 21:

Knox Gallery reception for Eleanor Bounous, watercolorist, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. See page 6.

Saturday, January 21:

Lenox Contra Dance: Music by Coincidance, with Eric Martin and friends, calling by Peter Stix. All dances taught. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m., beginners session at 8. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org, or call 528-4007 for information.

Monday, January 23: Adult book group meets to discuss *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library.

Saturday, February 4: Monterey church history at the Knox Gallery, 10 a.m. to noon. Anyone with a church-related memory or story to tell is welcome.

Camp Half Moon

Celebrating 90 Amazing Summers on Lake Buel

Sleepover & Day Camp
Boys & Girls Ages 3 to16
Flexible Sessions
Heated Pool Skate Park High Ropes
Gymnastics Zip-Line Tennis Sailing
Team Sports Dance Crafts Pottery Waterskiing Judo Archery Rocketry Golf
Yoga Camping & so much more!

info@camphalfmoon.com
www.camphalfmoon.com
Call 888 528 0940

Come Join the Fun!

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

From the Tax Collector's Office

The fiscal year 2017 Real Estate and Personal Property bills for the third quarter have been mailed and are due February1. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office at 528-1443, ext. 117. The fourth quarter tax bills will be mailed in late March and are due on May 1. If you wish, you may pay both the February and May amounts at this time.

Please direct all questions regarding assessments, abatement applications, and personal property taxes to the Board of Assessors, PO Box 488, Monterey, MA 01245, or call 528-1443, ext.115. Abatement applications must be received in the Assessors' Office by February 1.

To accommodate taxpayers who want the convenience of paying Monterey real estate and personal property taxes online, an online payment option is available. To pay your tax, you must have your current bill and checkbook or credit card in hand. Log on to montereyma.gov and click on "pay real estate taxes online." You will need to enter your current bill number and the current bill year (2017). The bank will assess a minimal fee of $0.25 per transaction. MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards will be accepted. Please note the credit card company will charge the taxpayer a fee for the service. This fee is not assessed by or paid to the Town of Monterey.

—Mari Enoch
Monterey Tax Collector

MONTEREY NEWS
PO Box 9
Monterey, MA 01245-0009

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
GREAT BARRINGTON MA
PERMIT NO 95

Change Service Requested

Rick Mielke

Seasonal Caretaking
Professional Year-Round Maintenance of Your House and Grounds

Celebrating over 30 years in business

528-0864

We Return Your Calls
Since 1975 • Fully Equipped • Fully Insured
P. O. Box 211, Monterey, MA 01245

Buying or selling your home in the Berkshires?
Corashire Realty, now in our 50th year!

CORASHIRE REALTY

Nancy Dinan, founder

Deborah D. Mielke
(O) 413-528-0014
(H) 413-528-1871
(C) 413-329-8000
corashirerealty@gmail.com

To see our Monterey Listings please visit
www.corashire.com
Also use our link to view other offerings in MLS.

Copyright © Monterey News 2017
email: montereynews9@gmail.com

Editor.....Stephen Moore
Copy Editor.....Hannah Fries
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Steve Pullen

Contributions from local artists this month:
Sudi Baker, p. 13; Maureen Banner, pp. 2, 19;
Chris Carnese, p. 6; Frank D'Amato, p. 16;
George Emmons, p. 20;
Bonner McAllester, pp. 12, 21; Stephen Moore, p. 20

BIZEN

Freshest Sushi Quality Fish • Organic Vegetables
Japanese Estate Sakes • Unfiltered Dessert Sakes

備前

On the Cutting Edge

"Where to Eat Sushi" in the Berkshires.
The New York Times
Gourmet Japanese Cuisine & Sushi Bar
17 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, Mass.
413-528-4343
Lunch Mon.-Fri. 12:00-2:30; Sat. & Sun. 12-3:00 • Dinner 7 Days 5-10